

Appl. No. 10/510,525

Response dated November 11, 2005

Response to Office action of August 11, 2005

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached annotated sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1, 2, and 11. These sheets, which include Figures 1, 2, and 11, show the changes to the original sheets including Figures 1, 2, and 11. In Figures 1, and 2, the text "(Prior Art)" has been added. In Figure 11, reference characters 156, 157, 158, and 159 have been removed.

Attachment: Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

REMARKS

In the specification, the paragraphs [0089] and [0111] have been amended to correct minor editorial problems.

In amended Figures 1 and 2, the text "(Prior Art)" has been added. In amended Figure 11, the element numerals 156, 157, 158, and 159 have been removed.

Claims 1-23 remain in this application.

I. SPECIFICATION

The Examiner objects to the disclosure because on page 15 in paragraph [0089], line 2, a comma after "at" should be deleted. The Examiner also objects to the disclosure because on page 17, paragraph [0111], line 4, the text "effect" should be "affect."

The Applicant amends paragraphs [0089] and [0111] in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions.

II. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Examiner objects to claim 7 because the claim recites the limitation "the wellstream energy," stating that there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. The Examiner also objects to claims 8-10 because they recite the limitation "the drive fluid," stating that there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims. The Examiner also objects to claim 12 because the claim recites the limitation "the multi-stage separator," stating that there is insufficient antecedent basis for that limitation in the claim.

The Applicant amends claims 7-10 and 12 in light of the Examiner's objections. The Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as amended overcome the Examiner's objections and requests that the Examiner remove the objections.

III. CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC § 102

A. Examiner's Statements

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 12-15, 20, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Hofmann* (U.S. Patent 5,117,908).

B. Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 12-15, 20, and 23

Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 12-15, 20, and 23 of the present application require a power supply system selectively supplying the source of energy to the pumping system. *Hofmann*, however, discloses reducing the pressure of the flow with a prime mover 8 in the form of an energy recovery turbine (ERT). The ERT is attached to the pumping system by a common shaft that powers the pumping system that includes the centrifical pump 14 and the compressor 15. As the turbine turns, it necessarily powers the

pumping system due to the rotation of the common shaft. *Hofmann* does not disclose selectively supplying a source of energy to the pumping system as required by the claims. The Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the rejection is unsupported by the art and requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection with respect to claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 12-15, 20, and 23.

IV. CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 103

A. Examiner's Statements

The Examiner rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of *Hofmann* in view of *Dean, et al.* (U.S. Patent 4,848,475). The Examiner also rejects claims 4-7 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over *Hofmann* in view of *Bencze* (U.S. Patent 4,848,471). The Examiner also rejects claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hofmann*. The Examiner also rejects claim 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over *Hofmann* in view of *Ditria, et al.* (U.S. Patent 6,197,095). The Examiner also rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hofmann* in view of *Appleford, et al.* (WO 01/20128). The Examiner also rejects claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hofmann*, in view of *Appleford, et al.*, as applied to claim 18, and further in view of *Ditria, et al.* The Examiner also rejects claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hofmann*, in view of *Ditria, et al.* The Examiner also rejects claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hofmann*, in view of *Dean, et al.*

B. Claims 3-7, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, and 22

The Examiner rejects claims 3-7, 10, 11, 16-19, 21, and 22. The Applicant repeats the remarks made above for claims 1 and 20. The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 20 are in condition for allowance. As claims 3-7, 10, 11, 16-19, 21, and 22 depend from independent claims 1 or 20, the Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are in condition for allowance as well as being dependent on allowable dependent claims. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner remove the rejection with respect to the dependent claims 3-7, 10, 11, 16-19, 21, and 22 as well.

V. AMENDMENTS MADE NOT RELATED TO PATENTABILITY

The Applicant amends claims 1 and 20 with respect to inserting the text "flow" to more clearly, correctly, and properly claim the invention and not for purposes of patentability. These statements are not an admission that the other amendments were made for purposes of patentability, meant to be limiting in any way, or meant to be all-inclusive of amendments not made for purposes of patentability.

VI. STATEMENT REGARDING CLAIMS

The Applicant comments on the allowability of the claims by addressing the Examiner's comments in this paper as well as previously during the prosecution of this application. By doing so, the Applicant is in no way limiting its ability to argue additional points of novelty regarding the independent claims or dependent claims at a later date.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration the pending claims and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite the resolution of this case, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

In the course of the foregoing discussions, the Applicant may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. There may also be other distinctions between the claims and the prior art that have yet to be raised, but that may be raised in the future.

Unless the Applicant has specifically stated that an amendment was made to distinguish the prior art, it was the intent of the amendment to further clarify and better define the claimed invention and the amendment was not for the purpose of patentability. Further, although the Applicant may have amended certain claims, the Applicant has not abandoned its pursuit of obtaining the allowance of these claims as originally filed and reserves, without prejudice, the right to pursue these claims in a continuing application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments

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Appendix

1/12

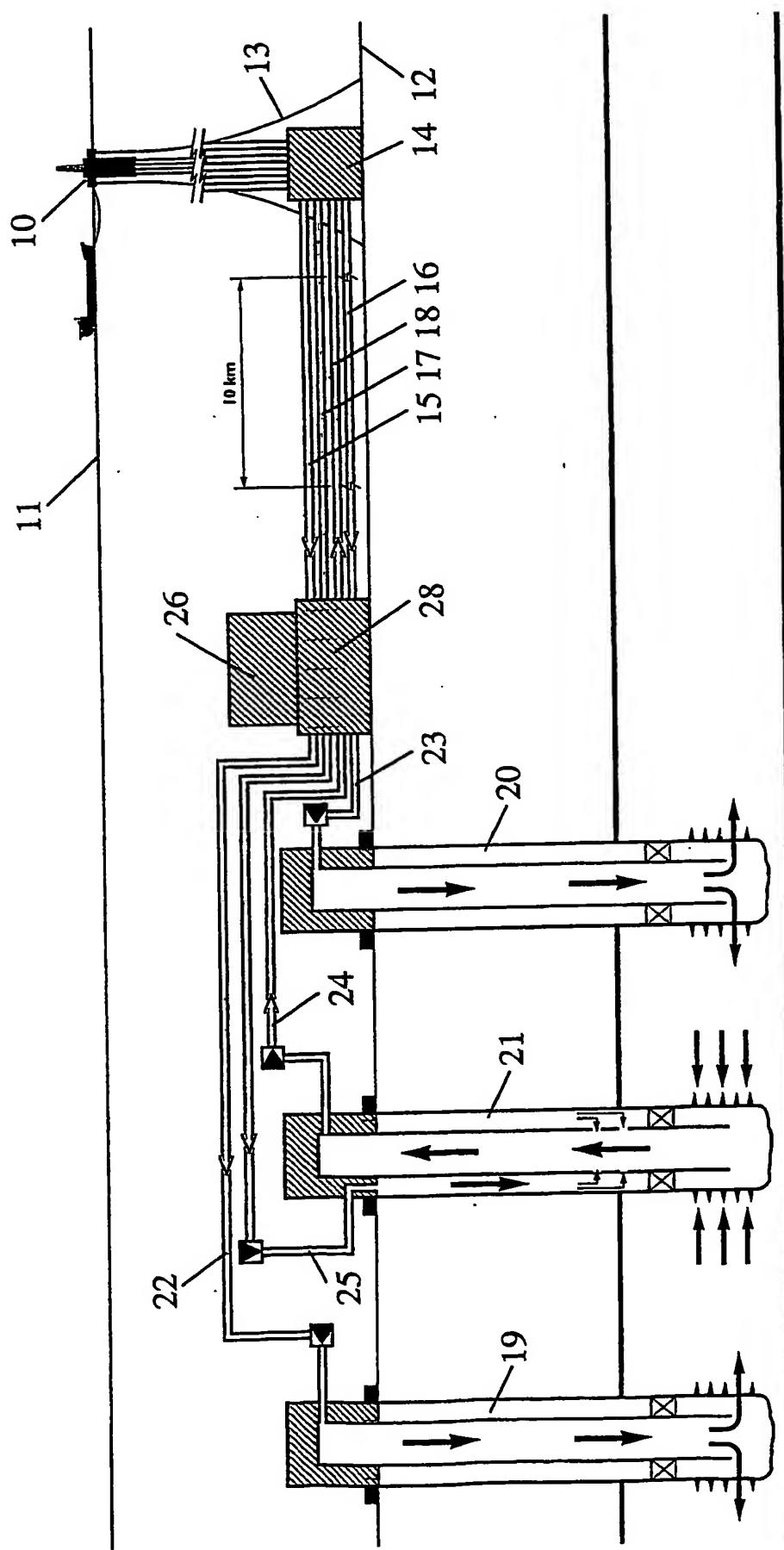
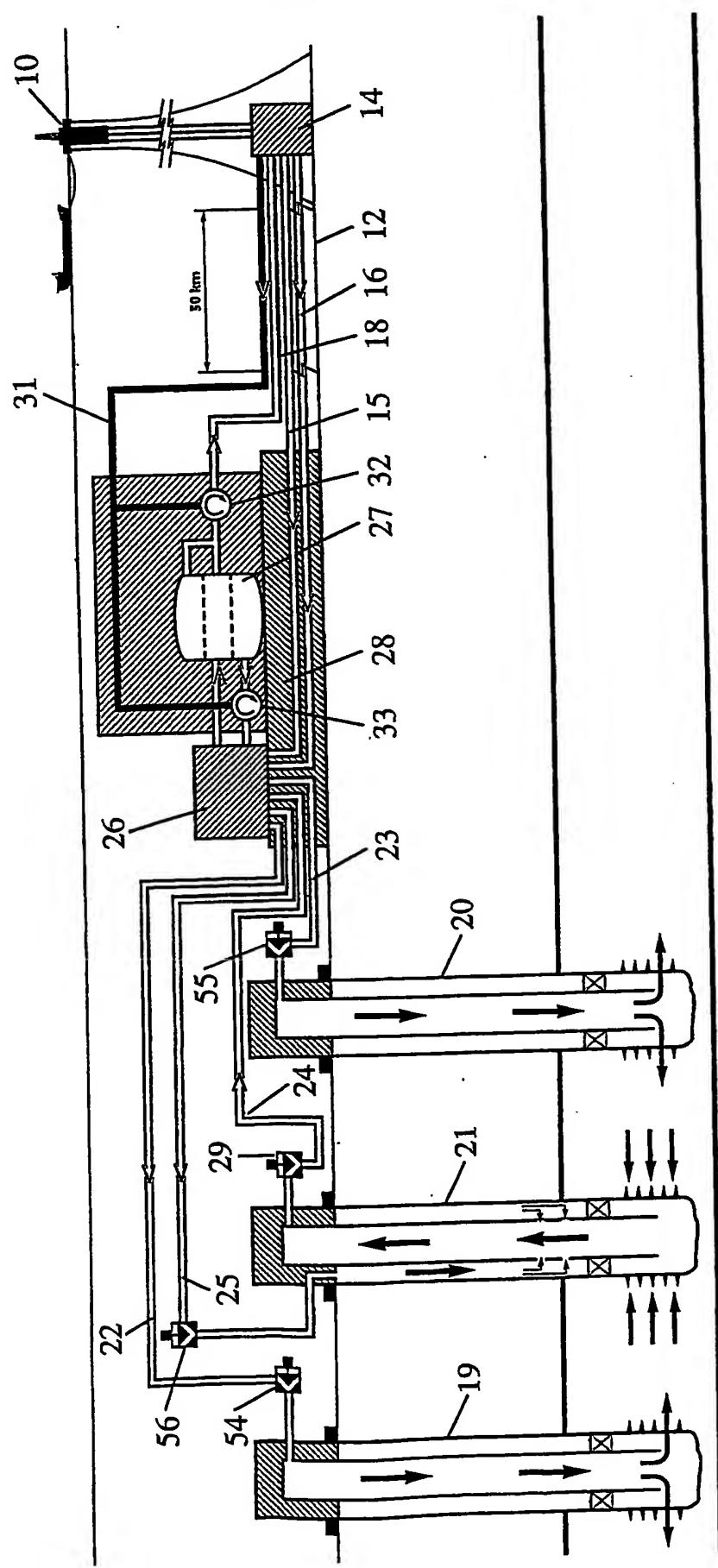


Fig 1 (Prior Art)

2/12

Fig 2 (P₁₀ & A_{ατ})

11/12

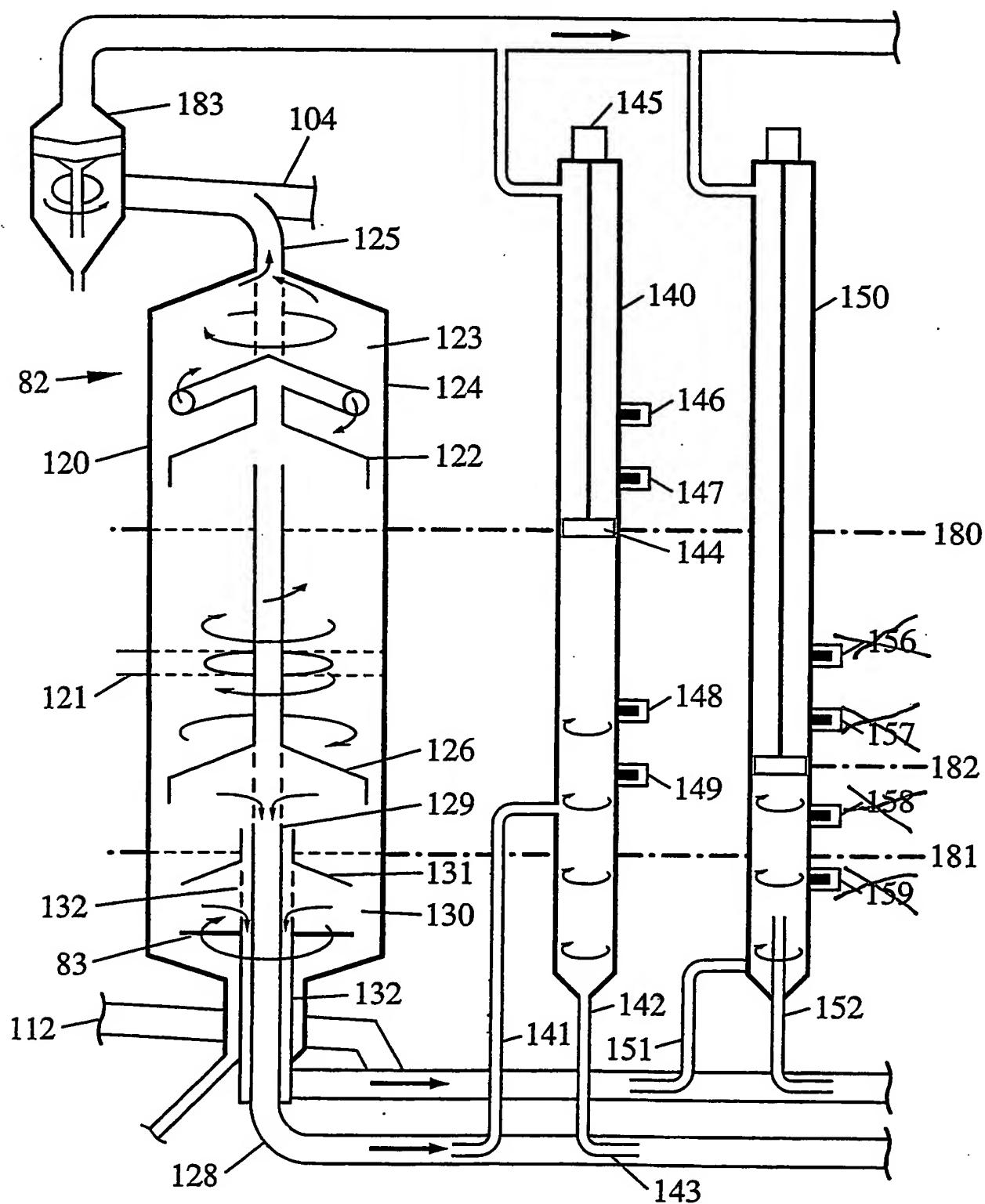


Fig 11